

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A ground leveling apparatus arranged to be drawn behind a prime mover and comprising:

a ground engaging knife edge mounted on an elongate carrier joined to a drawbar arrangement that is rigid between a forward end at which first connecting means is provided for pivotally connecting the drawbar arrangement to the prime mover and a rear end at which second connecting means is provided for connecting the drawbar arrangement to the carrier, the second connecting means being such that the carrier is unable to rotate axially with respect to the drawbar arrangement,

the carrier having a bottom portion that is parallel to the knife edge and that bears on the ground when the apparatus is in the first working position and skids over the ground as the apparatus is drawn over the ground by the prime mover,

the drawbar arrangement being arranged to position the carrier so that the knife edge is level with the bottom portion and being such that the carrier remains on the ground under its own weight while the forward end of the drawbar arrangement

undergoes a predetermined degree of pivotal movement in a vertical direction about the connection,

wherein a ratio of a first distance between the forward end and the rear end of the drawbar to a second distance between the bottom portion of the carrier and the knife edge is not less than twelve, whereby when the forward end of the drawbar moves vertically a third distance the knife edge moves in a same vertical direction a fourth distance that is the third distance times an inverse of the ratio.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the knife edge is incorporated in a cutting edge that is mounted on the carrier which is comprised of a member of right circular cylindrical cross section,

the drawbar arrangement comprising a pair of elongate members each of which has a rear end and a forward end and which, when the apparatus is in use, projects forwardly from the carrier when the drawbar arrangement is in a first working position, the elongate members being spaced apart adjacent at their rear ends where they are each pivotally joined to the carrier and being pivotally joined together adjacent their forward ends, means being provided to enable the elongate members to move into a disposition in which they are close together and close to the carrier when the drawbar arrangement is in a second working position.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the bottom portion of the carrier is provided with a wear plate for bearing on the ground.

16. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, for use with a prime mover equipped with towing means comprising a three point hitch that includes a pair of plough arms, wherein the drawbar arrangement comprises means for connecting the drawbar arrangement to the plough arms.

17. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, for use with a prime mover equipped with towing means comprising a tow bar, wherein the drawbar arrangement comprises means for pivotally connecting the drawbar arrangement to the tow bar, and means for lifting and lowering the forward end of the drawbar arrangement through a predetermined degree of movement in a vertical direction.

18. (new) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the ratio is not less than fifteen.

19. (new) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the ratio is about thirty so that the third distance is about thirty times the fourth distance.

20. (new) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first distance is about seven meters.